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2 **Abstract of the Disclosure**

3 An offshore system for petroleum production has a buoyant platform. A tendon assembly  
4 secures to the platform and extends down to a counterweight located near the lower end. A  
5 piling is embedded in the sea floor. A socket at the counterweight telescopingly slides over the  
6 upper end of the piling to prevent lateral movement of the platform. A dampening chamber is  
7 located between the socket and the piling. Ports for the chamber are arranged to allow a faster  
8 downward movement of the piling than upward movement.

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